

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An implantable replacement joint comprising a first component for attachment to a first bone portion; a second component for attachment to a second bone portion; and a flexible component extending between the first and second components;

wherein each of the first and second components has a respective bore and the flexible component is received within a cavity formed by the bores of the first and second components; and

wherein the flexible component is freely-floating within the cavity;

wherein the cavity formed by the bores in the first and second components is longer than the flexible component so that the flexible component can move axially within the cavity; and

wherein the flexible component is free to move laterally and rotationally within the cavity.

2. (original) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second bone components are adapted to engage first and second bone portions located on opposite sides of a joint.

3. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, adapted to replace a joint selected from the group consisting of wrists, fingers, toes, knees and elbows.

4. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second components are adapted to be anchored within cavities in the respective first and second bone portions.

5. (original) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first and second components are shaped to be an interference fit within the respective first and second bone portions.
6. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first and second components have formations on their outer surfaces to engage the inner surfaces of the cavities in the first and second bone portions.
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second components have bearing surfaces that articulate against one another when the device is made up.
11. (original) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the flexible component and the bores in the first and second components extend through the bearing surfaces.
12. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the bearing surfaces are arcuate to promote pivotal movements of the first and second components relative to one another.
13. (original) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 12, wherein the bearing surface of the first component is convex along a first axis and the bearing surface of the second component is convex along a second axis, the first and second axes being mutually

perpendicular.

14. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first component is pivotable relative to the second component around at least one axis.
15. (original) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one pivot axis is movable relative to the replacement joint.
16. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first component is pivotable relative to the second component around more than one axis.
17. (original) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first and second components are pivotable relative to each other around two perpendicular axes.
18. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second components are made from a relatively harder material than the flexible component.
19. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second components are made from a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, metal alloys, plastics materials, ceramics and carbon fibre composites.
20. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible component is resilient.
21. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible component comprises a material having inherent flexibility.
22. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 21, wherein the flexible component is made from a material selected from the group consisting of silicone

and polyurethane.

23. (withdrawn) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible portion has a hinge.

24. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 10, wherein a bearing plate is provided between the bearing surfaces of the first and second components.

25. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 24, wherein the bearing plate is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of metal and ceramics.

26. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 24, wherein the bearing plate is of a different material from the first and second components.

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 24, wherein the bearing plate has two pivot points, and the first and second components are adapted to pivot on opposite faces of the bearing plate.

29. (previously presented) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 24, wherein the bearing plate has extensions that limit the movement of at least one of the first component and the second component relative to the bearing plate.

30. (withdrawn) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clearance between the flexible component and the bores in the first and second components increases towards the mouths of the bores.

31. (cancelled)

32. (withdrawn) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spacing between the bores of the first and second components and the flexible component is smaller around the ends of the flexible component than the corresponding spacing between the bore mouths and the middle of the flexible component.

33. (withdrawn) A replacement joint as claimed in claim 32, wherein the bores of the first and second components flare outwardly towards the bore mouths.

34. (new) An implantable replacement joint comprising a first component for attachment to a first bone portion; a second component for attachment to a second bone portion; and a flexible component extending between the first and second components;
wherein each of the first and second components has a respective bore and the flexible component is received within a cavity formed by the bores of the first and second components;
wherein the flexible component is freely-floating within the cavity;
wherein the flexible component is free to move axially, laterally and rotationally within the cavity; and
wherein the first and second components have bearing surfaces that articulate against one another when the device is made up.

35. (new) An implantable replacement joint comprising a first component for attachment to a first bone portion; a second component for attachment to a second bone portion; and a flexible component extending between the first and second components;
wherein each of the first and second components has a respective bore and the flexible component is received within a cavity formed by the bores of the first and second components;
wherein the flexible component is freely-floating within the cavity; and

wherein the cavity formed by the bores in the first and second components is longer than the flexible component so that the flexible member can move axially within the cavity.